



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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July 26, 2005

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**EVENT: Plea**

**Defendant: Patrick M. Wynne**

**FORMER FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PLEADS  
GUILTY TO THEFT**

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A former employee of the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security entered a plea of guilty today to the charge of embezzlement based on his thefts of cash and other property that was stolen from hundreds of illegal immigrants, announced Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Thomas Frost, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago, Illinois office of the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General.

Patrick M. Wynne, age 33, of Milan, Michigan entered the guilty plea in United States District Court in Detroit before Judge Julian Able Cook, Jr. .

The information presented to the court at the time of the plea showed that between 2000 and 2004, while Wynne was employed as a Detention Officer with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, later known as the Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement division, he stole as much as \$290,000.00 from more than 500

detainees who were being kept in custody pending deportation from the United States. Wynne was also the Property Officer for the INS/ICE Detention facility in Monroe, Michigan during the same time period. As part of his duties Wynne was responsible for maintaining property belonging to hundreds of detainees. Wynne's duty was to ensure that the property was secure and that it was returned to the rightful owner at the time he or she was deported from the country or otherwise released from custody. Instead, Wynne stole the property and converted it to his own use.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Wynne faces up to 57 months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.00. Wynne will also be required to make full restitution to those whose property was stolen

United States Attorney Murphy stated that, "Violations of the public trust are among the most serious felonies that we prosecute in this office. In that vein, the thefts committed by Wynne are an absolute betrayal of his duties as a federal law enforcement officer."

Special Agent in Charge Thomas Frost stated that, "This conviction sends a clear message that employees of the Department of Homeland Security who may decide to engage in criminal activity within the scope of their duties will be aggressively pursued and prosecuted."

A sentencing hearing was set by Judge Cook for November 15, 2005 at 2:00 pm.